

TOWNSHIP OF VERNON
TOWNSHIP COUNCIL MEETING
RE-ORGANIZATION MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 15, 2026

The Reorganization Meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Vernon was convened at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, January 15, 2026 in the Vernon Municipal Center, 21 Church Street, Vernon, New Jersey.

CALL TO ORDER

STATEMENT: Adequate Notice of this Reorganization Meeting was provided to the public and the press on January 19, 2025 and was posted at the Municipal Building in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A.10:4-7.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

ROLL CALL

Present were Council Members William Higgins, Patrick Rizzuto and Bradley Sparta. Also, Present was Mayor Anthony Rossi, Administrator Tina Kraus, Township Attorney Peter King and Township Clerk Marcy Gianattasio.

SWEARING IN COUNCIL MEMBER PATRICK RIZZUTO

SWEARING IN COUNCIL MEMBER SANDRA OOMS

SWEARING IN COUNCIL MEMBER CARL CONTINO

SWEARING IN FIRE DEPARTMENT CHIEFS AND DEPUTIES

Township Fire Commissioner -John Cosh
Deputy Commissioner - Jeff Anderson

Vernon Fire Department
Chief- Kevin Cooke
Deputy Chief- Tim Davis

Mcafee Fire Department
Chief- Mike Passaro
Deputy Chief- Dan Gros

Highland Lakes Fire Department
Chief- Scott Semchesyn
Deputy Chief - Karen Thomas

Pochuck Valley Fire Department
Chief- John Cosh
Deputy Chief- Brian Enering

*******SHORT RECESS*******

MAYOR COMMENTS

Thank you all for being here tonight for Vernon Townships annual reorganization meeting. I'm not going to go into all that we have done in 2025, and what we are going to be doing in 2026. I will save that for my township address in the coming weeks.

It's an honor to stand before you as Mayor of *Vernon Township* I want to extend a special welcome to our residents, municipal staff, volunteers, State and County elected officials, as well as Congressman John Gotthierner, and to those who are streaming this meeting from your home

I want to take a moment to thank our outgoing or continuing council members who have served with dedication: Thank you for your work on budgets, infrastructure upgrades, new and old Development

projects, responding to resident issues and everything else that helped Vernon stay strong. Please let's give them a round of applause.

To the new council members welcome aboard let's work on areas where we agree on and build on that. Example Sandy you campaigned for the creation of new revenue streams, Commercial ratables, signage ordinance for our businesses, which is much needed.

Carl, you mentioned you want to promote long-term planning for a sustainable budget

attract new business, and ratables. I'm with you. Remember you are NOT here to represent only one person or one small group of people— you represent all 23,000 residents of Vernon township; it is your name and your reputation when misguided by those who seek failure. If I fail, you fail, and most importantly, Vernon fails. We may not always agree, but let us be mindful that while we may have different perspectives, we share one goal: The goal is to move Vernon forward, towards a stronger, safer, and more vibrant township.

My message to ALL the council tonight is simple: I will treat you as full partners in the work we are about to embark on, which is a lot from finally developing Main st , the construction of our sewer expansion area and FINALLY closing the chapter on one of the biggest problem Vernon has endured for over a decade and that is Legends. Closing this chapter will open a new door for Vernon township, and the county.

Council I will give you straight answers, even when they're not the answers you want to hear. I will respect your voice, your perspective, even when we disagree. And I will expect the same in return.

I ask one thing from the council, and that is to allow myself and my administration to provide you with the facts, prior to making voting decisions that can forever impact our township. WE MUST WORK TOGETHER

To the residents of Vernon township, thank you for putting your trust in the hands of us to lead the Vernon township municipal government

Please remember one thing: we are all in this together, WE are all taxpayers, so the decisions we make affect us, too. Make no mistake about it We will make mistakes, we are human. We all took an oath and that is to support the constitution and that we will faithfully impartially and justly perform all the duties of our elected positions TO THE BEST OF OUR ABILITY and that's all we can ask for. Lastly please remember that 90% of the information being spewed out on social media is false FAKE NEWS. My door is always open. You want the facts you know where to find me. I will continue to engage and have open discussion and live meetings. I think its important for you all to know what we are doing with your tax dollars.

To the incoming council president, I know we have had our differences, but we have also shown we can work together. I'm hopeful that you will be the council change that is needed. You will see the things I have seen since taking office, and that is the hard work the employees here do each and every day. I believe you will have a whole new perspective on municipal government, and I'm truly excited to work with you and to HELP you and the other council members become successful, because remember, just like me, if you fail, we ALL fail! Thank you and Congratulations.

OUTGOING COUNCIL PRESIDENT COMMENTS

Council Member Rizzuto feels that the best thing that has happened to him was being able to work with the people of Vernon Township for the betterment of the town. He asks himself while making any decision, will it make Vernon better. A number of issues have come forward and decisions that have been made whether unanimously or divided, has always been what is best for Vernon Township and how will it affect the residents for years to come. More than that Council Member Rizzuto has found it a great honor to be able to work with people who he has come to know and come to trust, not only them but their decisions. Obviously, we as Council Members do not have all of the answers and we have to trust our professionals and the people who work in the building and for the township, who by far have a degree of professionalism. Once you see it you can never forget it. Council Member Rizzuto thanked these people for the time they have given him and the fact that they have let me into their lives while working with them, he appreciates the effort that they have made by supporting and doing the right thing to do for Vernon Township. Council Member Rizzuto has mentioned the police, first responders and fire department and he will continue to do so because without them Vernon is not Vernon. We are residents who rely on the services these men and women provide us with and allow us to sleep safely at night. The

ability to resolve problems stands with the people on this dais and he looks forward to working with them in the future.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT NOMINATIONS & SELECTION

Municipal Clerk Marcy Gianattasio asked for nominations for Council President.

Council Member Rizzuto made a nomination for Council Member Higgins to be Council President. Seconded by Council Member Ooms. There was no other nomination for Council President.

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Contino, Higgins, Ooms, Rizzuto, Sparta

NAYES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion carries to approve Council Member Higgins as Council President.

COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT NOMINATIONS & SELECTION

Council President Higgins asked for nominations for Council Vice-President.

Council Member Rizzuto nominated Council Member Ooms. Seconded by Council Member Contino. There were no other nominations for Council Vice-President.

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Contino, Higgins, Ooms, Rizzuto, Sparta

NAYES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion carries to approve Council Member Ooms as Council Vice- President.

INCOMING COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Council Member Contino said thank you.

Council Member Ooms expressed that it is an honor and a privilege to be voted into this seat and she thanks the public for trusting her. She would like to create policy that creates good government and refine our existing policy. She would like to implement strategies that show transparency. Council Member Ooms would like to see more items added to the website for more transparency. She would like to use work sessions for the big items that need to be discussed. She feels that we need to address how we conduct ourselves on social media and have a code of conduct. Most important Council Member Ooms feels that the Council has the responsibility of monitoring your money and how it is spent. We are trusted with the job of making sure that money is spent appropriately and legally and according to State statute. She believes in the process. When you do not follow the right process, you have poor outcomes. She looks forward to working with everyone on the Council and she is very excited. Council Member Ooms is sure the Council will be working on some of her goals with her. As we turn towards working on financial responsibility, oversight and accountability, she thinks we have a great group and she excited to get started. She thanked everyone on the Council and in the public.

INCOMING COUNCIL PRESIDENT COMMENTS

Council President Higgins welcomed some of the dignitaries in the public, Alan Henderson, Dave Silverthorne, Former Mayor Burrell, Former Council Member Natalie Buccieri, Parker Space and Chris Carney. Council President Higgins commented that this is his third year on the Council. He started the same time as the Mayor and ran with Council Member Sparta. He feels that there is a lot of experience on the Council with the new members and the more experienced members. He feels that there is a lot to do but we will get to the goals by asking the right questions to get to the facts. We have had some cooperation issues and the Mayor and I have spoken to him and we are going to go in the right direction for the town. Council President Higgins looks forward to this and if there are any stumbles along the way we will get over those with process and procedure. Council Member Higgins welcomes everybody's comments. Tax money is paramount and doing right by the citizens. Vernon is great place to live.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (For Current Agenda Items Only, Limited to 3 Minutes Per Person)

Council President Higgins asked for a motion to open the meeting to Public Comments.

MOVED: Rizzuto
SECOND: Contino

All members were in favor.

Motion carries to open the floor for public comment.

Alan Henderson, Sussex County Commission – introduced himself to the Council

William Rickey – congratulated the Council. He voiced his concern for the PILOT and apartment buildings. Mr. Rickey questioned the town center concept.

Seeing no one else from the public wishing to come forward, Council President Higgins asked for a motion to close the meeting to Public Comments.

MOVED: Rizzuto
SECOND: Sparta

All members were in favor.

Motion carries to close the meeting to the public.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

December 8, 2025 – Executive Session

Council President Higgins asked for a motion to approve the December 8, 2025 executive session minutes.

MOTION: Sparta
SECOND: Rizzuto

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Higgins, Rizzuto
NAYES:
ABSTAIN: Contino, Ooms, Sparta
ABSENT:

Motion carried to approve the December 8, 2025 executive session minutes.

December 8, 2025 – Regular Meeting

Council President Higgins asked for a motion to approve the December 8, 2025 regular meeting minutes.

MOTION: Sparta
SECOND: Rizzuto

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Higgins, Rizzuto, Sparta
NAYES:
ABSTAIN: Contino, Ooms
ABSENT:

Motion carried to approve the December 8, 2025 regular meeting minutes.

December 29, 2025 – Special Meeting

Council President Higgins asked for a motion to approve the December 29, 2025 special meeting minutes.

MOTION: Sparta
SECOND: Rizzuto

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Higgins, Rizzuto, Sparta
NAYES:
ABSTAIN: Contino, Ooms
ABSENT:

Motion carried to approve the December 29, 2025 special meeting minutes.

CONSENT AGENDA

Resolution #26-01: Designating of Official Newspaper for 2026

Resolution #26-02: Reauthorizing Petty Cash Funds for Calendar Year 2026

Resolution #26-03: Authorizing a Contract with Munidex to Maintain the Township's Vital Statistic Software for 2026

Resolution #26-04: Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Vernon, County of Sussex, and State of New Jersey Appointing Deputy Custodians of Records

Resolution #26-05: Authorizing the Award of a Contract for 2026 Between A & E Clothing and the Township of Vernon to Locate Clothing Donation Bins at the Municipal Recycling Center

Resolution #26-06: Authorizing a Memorandum of Agreement with Signature Information Solutions for "Inquiry Only" Access to Certain Tax Collectors Tax and/or Utility Records via Edmunds and Associates

Resolution #26-07: Authorizing a Memorandum of Agreement with Accurate Abstracts for "Inquiry Only" Access to Certain Tax Collectors Tax and/or Utility Records via Edmunds and Associates

Resolution #26-08: Authorizing a Memorandum of Agreement with Valtech Research for "Inquiry Only" Access to Certain Tax Collectors Tax and/or Utility Records via Edmunds and Associates

Resolution #26-09: Authorizing a Memorandum of Agreement with Action Title Research for "Inquiry Only" Access to Certain Tax Collectors Tax and/or Utility Records via Edmunds and Associates

Resolution #26-10: Authorizing a Memorandum of Agreement with Priority Search Services, LLC for "Inquiry Only" Access to Certain Tax Collectors Tax and/or Utility Records via Edmunds and Associates

Resolution #26-11: Authorizing the Municipal Tax Assessor and the Special Municipal Attorney to Defend the Township Before the Sussex County Board of Taxation for Tax Appeals

Resolution #26-14: Governor's Council on Substance Use Disorder Fiscal Grant Cycle July 2027 – June 2031

Resolution #26-15: Authorizing the Mayor and Municipal Clerk to Sign an Agreement with the County of Sussex for Nutrition Site Premises for Senior Citizens

Resolution #26-16: Appointing ADA Coordinator

Resolution #26-17: Appointment of Public Agency Compliance Officer

Resolution #26-18: Establishing Interest Rates for Delinquent Property Taxes and Assessments

Resolution #26-19: Continuation of the Beautification Committee

Resolution #26-20: Continuation of the Economic Development Advisory Committee

Resolution #26-21: Approving a Solicitor's Permit – Archtop Fiber

Resolution #26-22: Approving a Solicitor's Permit – Archtop Fiber

Resolution #26-23: Approving a Solicitor’s Permit – Archtop Fiber

Resolution #26-25: Authorizing the Award of a Required Disclosure Contract with “Special Data Logic” for Permitting / Licensing Software

Resolution #26-26: Resolution to Adopt a Cash Management Plan-2026

Resolution #26-27: Authorizing the Continuation of Award of Contract for Professional Services

Resolution #26-28: Resolution Adopting Temporary Budget for the Township of Vernon Temporary Budget Appropriation for Year 2026

Resolution #26-29: Resolution Authorizing Vernon Township to Execute a Shared Service Agreement Between the Township of Vernon and the Vernon Township Municipal Utilities Authority for the Provisions of Financial Clerical Support Services

Resolution #26-30: Resolution Authorizing the Township of Vernon to Execute a Shared Service Agreement Between the Township of Vernon and the Vernon Township Municipal Utilities Authority for the Provision of DPW Services

Resolution #26-31: Resolution Authorizing the Execution of a Shared Service Agreement with the Township of Vernon for the Provision of Snowplowing Services on an as Needed Basis

Resolution #26-32: Authorizing Signatures on Township Checks Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:5-16

Resolution #26-33: Resolution Authorizing the Award of a Required Disclosure Contract with “Lawsoft Inc. for Police Records Management System Fire Cad Software”

Resolution #26-35: Resolution Appointments to the Vernon Township Municipal Utility Authority

Resolution #26-36: Resolution of the Township of Vernon Appointing a Municipal Prosecutor

Resolution #26-37: Resolution of the Township of Vernon Appointing an Alternate Municipal Prosecutor

Resolution #26-38: Resolution of the Township of Vernon Appointing a Municipal Public Defender

Resolution #26-39: Authorizing the Vernon Township Council to Approve a Person-to-Person Transfer of Liquor License #1922-33-001-004

Resolution #26-40: Appointment to the Land Use Board

Resolution #26-42: Authorizing the Award of Contract for Professional Services

<u>Service:</u>	<u>Account #:</u>	<u>Amount:</u>
Twp Attorney	6-01-20-100-91	75,000.00
Twp. Planner	6-01-20-100-91	10,000.00
Twp. Engineer	6-01-20-165-41	40,000.00
Qualified Purchasing Agent	6-01-20-100-95	10,500.00
Financial Advisors	6-01-20-130-20	7,500.00
Twp. Auditor	6-01-20-135-91	60,000.00
Twp. Atty - In Rem Frclsr/Rdvlpmnt	6-01-20-155-44	50,000.00
Bond Counsel	6-01-20-155-45	15,000.00
Twp. Atty. – Tax Appeals	6-01-20-155-52	60,000.00
Twp. Atty. – Labor	6-01-20-155-53	50,000.00
Litigation (all attorneys)	6-01-20-155-54	70,000.00
Alt Municipal Prosecutor	6-01-20-155-57	3,000.00
Municipal Prosecutor	6-01-25-275-92	36,000.00
Public Defender	6-01-20-155-51	4,000.00
Public Defender	T-14-56-825-00	6,200.00
Health Benefits Consultant	6-01-23-220-57	70,000.00
Appraisal Services	6-01-20-150-37	10,000.00

Council President Higgins asked for a motion to approve consent agenda.

MOTION: Sparta
SECOND: Contino

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Contino, Higgins, Ooms, Rizzuto, Sparta
NAYES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT:

RESOLUTION #26-01

DESIGNATION OF OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER FOR 2026

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40:53-1 et al. of the Open Public Meetings Act requires that the governing body of every municipality designate an official newspaper or newspapers for the publication of all advertisements and notices required by law to be published by the municipality; and

WHEREAS, the second newspaper designated by this body must be one which has the greatest likelihood of informing the public within the jurisdictional boundaries of this body of such meetings; and

WHEREAS, *The New Jersey Herald/Sunday Herald* is hereby designated to receive all notices of meetings as required under the Open Public Meetings Act and *The Star Ledger*, and the *Advertiser News* and will be designated as the alternate newspapers; and

WHEREAS, it is the opinion of this public body that *The New Jersey Herald/Sunday Herald*, have the greatest likelihood of informing the public within the jurisdictional area of this public body of such meetings.

WHEREAS, P.L. 2025, c. 72 requires that starting March 1, 2026, municipalities publish their public notices on the municipal website; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Township of Vernon, County of Sussex, public notices will be available at <https://www.vernontwp.com/index.php/government/legal-notices> starting March 1, 2026, in compliance with P.L. 2025, c. 72.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Council of the Township of Vernon, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey that *The New Jersey Herald/ Sunday Herald* is hereby designated as the official newspaper for the 2026 Calendar Year and will receive all Notices of meetings of the Township Council as required by the Open Public Meetings Act, and *The Star Ledger*, and *The Advertiser News*, will be designated as alternate newspapers of the Township of Vernon until March 1, 2026 after which public notices will be available on the Vernon Township website at <https://www.vernontwp.com/index.php/government/legal-notices> in compliance with P.L. 2025, c. 72.

This resolution shall take effect immediately.

RESOLUTION #26-02

REAUTHORIZING PETTY CASH FUNDS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2026

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:5-21 authorizes the establishment of a Petty Cash Fund in municipalities by application and resolution; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Township of Vernon to establish the following Petty Cash Funds for calendar year 2026 as follows:

Department	Custodian	Amount Authorized
DPW	Howard Lazier	\$100.00
Finance	Tina Kraus	\$100.00
Police	Daniel B. Young	\$500.00

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Township of Vernon hereby authorizes such action and that the Township Clerk file two copies of this resolution with the Division of Local Government Services, State of New Jersey.

RESOLUTION #26-03

AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH MUNIDEX TO MAINTAIN THE TOWNSHIP'S VITAL STATISTIC SOFTWARE FOR 2026

WHEREAS, the Township of Vernon has a need to maintain its vital statistic software; and

WHEREAS, MUNIDEX, Inc. supplied the original vital statistic software to the Township and has the expertise to maintain said program; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer recommends that the Township Council award a contract to maintain the Township's vital statistic software to Munidex, Inc., 216 Stelton Road, Suite A1, Piscataway, NJ 08854; and

WHEREAS, the cost for this annual maintenance contract is \$740.00 and there may be additional charges if on-site maintenance service is required and the Chief Financial Officer of the Township of Vernon, has certified these funds are available in account #6-01-20-120-20.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Vernon, that the Mayor and Municipal Clerk are authorized to sign and accept the Software Maintenance Agreement for the year 2026 to maintain the Township's vital statistic software in an amount of \$740.00; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption according to law.

RESOLUTION #26-04

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VERNON, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY APPOINTING DEPUTY CUSTODIANS OF RECORDS

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Open Public Records Act, N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 et seq. ("OPRA"), names the municipal clerk as the custodian of government records; and

WHEREAS, certain officials and/or departments receive numerous public records requests based upon the nature of their official duties and/or office; and

WHEREAS, the governing body may designate one or more deputy custodians to facilitate compliance with OPRA; and

WHEREAS, the governing body adopted the policy of Deputy Custodians of Records via Resolution 16-175 on July 25, 2016 and wishes to continue this practice; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council of the Township of Vernon has determined that it is in the best interest of the Township and the public to designate deputy custodians for specific officials and/or departments.

NOW THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Vernon, County of Sussex, and State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The Police Chief is hereby appointed as the deputy custodian of records for Police Department records.
2. The Tax Collector is hereby appointed deputy custodian of records for tax collection records.
3. The Tax Assessor is hereby appointed deputy custodian of records for tax assessment records.
4. The Construction Official is hereby appointed deputy custodian of records for building, construction and land use records.
5. The Chief Financial Officer is hereby appointed deputy custodian of records for financial records.
6. The Land Use Board Secretary is hereby appointed deputy custodian of records for the Land Use and Zoning records.
7. The designated deputy records custodians shall report to the Township Clerk all requests for records and shall follow any instructions given by the Clerk regarding the handling of such records.

RESOLUTION #26-05

AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A CONTRACT FOR 2026 BETWEEN A & E CLOTHING AND THE TOWNSHIP OF VERNON TO LOCATE CLOTHING DONATION BINS AT MUNICIPAL RECYCLING CENTER

WHEREAS, Vernon Township has a need to contract with a vendor to locate Donation Clothing Bins in the Vernon Township Municipal Recycling Center on Church Street for the continued service to Township residents; and

WHEREAS, Vernon Township has received a proposal from A& E Clothing, Hamilton Township, NJ to provide Clothing Bins on Township Property and compensate Vernon Township \$60.00 per month per Bin; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and DPW Director recommends that Vernon Township renew a contract with A & E Clothing Corp to provide four (4) donation bins at the Recycling Center commencing January 1 through December 31, 2026; and

WHEREAS, A & E Clothing Corp. has been collecting clothing in New Jersey for over sixteen years which donations are shipped throughout the USA, Europe, Asia, Africa and South America and proceeds further support Non-Profit Organizations such as Retired Peace Officer Charity Organization and for research for Cancer, Crohn's Disease and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Vernon, County of Sussex and State of New Jersey as follows:

1. The Township of Vernon is authorized to engage A & E Clothing Corp. for the purpose of locating four (4) Clothing Donation Bins at the Vernon Township Municipal Recycling Center, Church Street, NJ, for compensation of \$60.00 per month per bin to the Township
2. The Mayor and Township Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute Contract with A & E Clothing Corporation Corp.

RESOLUTION #26-06

AUTHORIZING A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH *SIGNATURE INFORMATION SOLUTIONS* FOR "INQUIRY ONLY" ACCESS TO CERTAIN TAX COLLECTORS TAX AND/OR UTILITY RECORDS VIA EDMUNDS AND ASSOCIATES

WHEREAS, the Township of Vernon received a request from Signature Information Solutions seeking electronic "look only" inquiry access to the public tax records administered by the tax collector; and

WHEREAS, Vernon Township's tax records are currently maintained in an electronic format by Edmunds and Associates of Northfield, New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, upon authorization, Signature Information Solutions, agrees to use this information for the sole purpose of providing tax search information to the title industry; and

WHEREAS, Signature Information Solutions also agrees to protect the information obtained and to not re-sell or re-distribute this same information or make available to a third party except as needed for the purpose of providing information for tax searches to the title industry.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Township of Vernon:

1. Vernon Township will authorize Edmunds and Associates to provide look up information access to Signature Information Solutions for Vernon Township property tax and/or utility records.
2. Signature Information Solutions shall be subject to Edmunds and Associates policies and procedures.
3. Signature Information Solutions waives any claim that it may have against Vernon Township in connection with Edmunds and Associates policies and procedures.
4. Signature Information Solutions, agrees to use this information for the sole purpose of providing tax search information to the title industry, agrees to protect the information obtained and to not re-sell or re-distribute this same information or make available to a third party except as needed for the purpose of providing information for tax searches to the title industry.
5. The Township of Vernon shall not incur any charges for providing this access or means of information exchange to Signature Information Solutions.

RESOLUTION #26-07

**AUTHORIZING A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH *ACCURATE ABSTRACTS* FOR
“INQUIRY ONLY” ACCESS TO CERTAIN TAX COLLECTORS TAX AND/OR UTILITY
RECORDS VIA EDMUNDS AND ASSOCIATES**

WHEREAS, the Township of Vernon received a request from Accurate Abstracts seeking electronic “look only” inquiry access to the public tax records administered by the tax collector; and

WHEREAS, Vernon Township’s tax records are currently maintained in an electronic format by Edmunds and Associate of Northfield, New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, upon authorization, Accurate Abstracts, agrees to use this information for the sole purpose of providing tax search information to the title industry; and

WHEREAS, Accurate Abstracts also agrees to protect the information obtained and to not re-sell or re-distribute this same information or make available to a third party except as needed for the purpose of providing information for tax searches to the title industry.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Township of Vernon:

1. Vernon Township will authorize Edmunds and Associates to provide look up information access to Accurate Abstracts, for Vernon Township property tax and/or utility records.
2. Accurate Abstracts shall be subject to Edmunds and Associates policies and procedures.
3. Accurate Abstracts waives any claim that it may have against Vernon Township in connection with Edmunds and Associates policies and procedures.
4. Accurate Abstracts, agrees to use this information for the sole purpose of providing tax search information to the title industry, agrees to protect the information obtained and to not re-sell or re-distribute this same information or make available to a third party except as needed for the purpose of providing information for tax searches to the title industry.
5. The Township of Vernon shall not incur any charges for providing this access or means of information exchange to Accurate Abstracts.

RESOLUTION #26-08

**AUTHORIZING A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH *VALTECH RESEARCH* FOR
“INQUIRY ONLY” ACCESS TO CERTAIN TAX COLLECTORS TAX AND/OR UTILITY
RECORDS VIA EDMUND AND ASSOCIATES**

WHEREAS, the Township of Vernon received a request from Valtech Research seeking electronic “look only” inquiry access to the public tax records administered by the tax collector; and

WHEREAS, Vernon Township’s tax records are currently maintained in an electronic format by Edmunds and Associates of Northfield, New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, upon authorization, Valtech Research, agrees to use this information for the sole purpose of providing tax search information to the title industry; and

WHEREAS, Valtech Research also agrees to protect the information obtained and to not re-sell or re-distribute this same information or make available to a third party except as needed for the purpose of providing information for tax searches to the title industry.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Township of Vernon:

1. Vernon Township will authorize Edmunds and Associates to provide look up information access to Valtech Research for Vernon Township property tax and/or utility records.
2. Valtech Research shall be subject to Edmunds and Associates policies and procedures.
3. Valtech Research waives any claim that it may have against Vernon Township in connection with Edmunds and Associates policies and procedures.
4. Valtech Research, agrees to use this information for the sole purpose of providing tax search information to the title industry, agrees to protect the information obtained and to not re-sell or re-

distribute this same information or make available to a third party except as needed for the purpose of providing information for tax searches to the title industry.

5. The Township of Vernon shall not incur any charges for providing this access or means of information exchange to Valtech Research.

RESOLUTION #26-09

AUTHORIZING A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH ACTION TITLE RESEARCH FOR “INQUIRY ONLY” ACCESS TO CERTAIN TAX COLLECTORS TAX AND/OR UTILITY RECORDS VIA EDMUNDS AND ASSOCIATES

WHEREAS, the Township of Vernon received a request from Action Title Research seeking electronic “look only” inquiry access to the public tax records administered by the tax collector; and

WHEREAS, Vernon Township’s tax records are currently maintained in an electronic format by Edmunds and Associates of Northfield, New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, upon authorization, Action Title Research, agrees to use this information for the sole purpose of providing tax search information to the title industry; and

WHEREAS, Action Title Research also agrees to protect the information obtained and to not re-sell or re-distribute this same information or make available to a third party except as needed for the purpose of providing information for tax searches to the title industry.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Township of Vernon:

1. Vernon Township will authorize Edmunds and Associates to provide look up information access to Action Title Research, for Vernon Township property tax and/or utility records.
2. Action Title Research shall be subject to Edmunds and Associates policies and procedures.
3. Action Title Research waives any claim that it may have against Vernon Township in connection with Edmunds and Associates policies and procedures.
4. Action Title Research, agrees to use this information for the sole purpose of providing tax search information to the title industry, agrees to protect the information obtained and to not re-sell or re-distribute this same information or make available to a third party except as needed for the purpose of providing information for tax searches to the title industry.
5. The Township of Vernon shall not incur any charges for providing this access or means of information exchange to Action Title Research.

RESOLUTION #26-10

AUTHORIZING A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH *PRIORITY SEARCH SERVICES, LLC* FOR “INQUIRY ONLY” ACCESS TO CERTAIN TAX COLLECTORS TAX AND/OR UTILITY RECORDS VIA EDMUNDS AND ASSOCIATES

WHEREAS, the Township of Vernon received a request from Priority Search Services, LLC seeking electronic “look only” inquiry access to the public tax records administered by the tax collector; and

WHEREAS, Vernon Township’s tax records are currently maintained in an electronic format by Edmunds and Associates of Trenton, New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, upon authorization, Priority Search Services, LLC, agrees to use this information for the sole purpose of providing tax search information to the title industry; and

WHEREAS, Priority Search Services, LLC also agrees to protect the information obtained and to not re-sell or re-distribute this same information or make available to a third party except as needed for the purpose of providing information for tax searches to the title industry.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Township of Vernon:

1. Vernon Township will authorize Edmunds and Associates to provide look up information access to Priority Search Services, LLC, for Vernon Township property tax and/or utility records.

2. Priority Search Services, LLC shall be subject to Edmunds and Associates policies and procedures.
3. Priority Search Services, LLC waives any claim that it may have against Vernon Township in connection with Edmunds and Associates policies and procedures.
4. Priority Search Services, LLC, agrees to use this information for the sole purpose of providing tax search information to the title industry, agrees to protect the information obtained and to not re-sell or re-distribute this same information or make available to a third party except as needed for the purpose of providing information for tax searches to the title industry.
5. The Township of Vernon shall not incur any charges for providing this access or means of information exchange to Priority Search Services, LLC.

RESOLUTION #26-11

AUTHORIZING THE MUNICIPAL TAX ASSESSOR AND THE SPECIAL MUNICIPAL ATTORNEY TO DEFEND THE TOWNSHIP BEFORE THE SUSSEX COUNTY BOARD OF TAXATION FOR TAX APPEALS

WHEREAS, the County Tax Board requires the governing body of each municipality to pass a resolution authorizing the Assessor and Special Municipal Attorney (for tax appeals) of the municipality to file and prosecute any and all tax appeals, farmland rollback complaints, and any added and omitted assessment complaints before the Sussex County Tax Board.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the governing body of the Township of Vernon that the Assessor and Special Municipal Attorney (for tax appeals) are hereby authorized to file, prosecute, defend, stipulate, and/or agree upon all contested appeals before the Sussex County Board of Taxation and Tax Court of the State of New Jersey, and to initiate municipal appeals to correct the Township of Vernon tax list, including but not limited to, rollback complaints, added and omitted assessment complaints, and such other appeals as are necessary to correct property assessments for the Township of Vernon; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Assessor and the Special Municipal Attorney (for tax appeals) are hereby designated as the agents of the Township of Vernon for the purpose of signing settlements of the foregoing matters by stipulation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Municipal Clerk is directed to forward a certified copy of this Resolution to the Sussex County Tax Board.

RESOLUTION #26-14

**Governor’s Council on Substance Use Disorder
Fiscal Grant Cycle July 2027 – June 2031**

WHEREAS, the Governor’s Council on Substance Use Disorder (GCSUD) established the Municipal Alliances for the Prevention of Substance Use Disorder in 1989 to educate and engage residents, local government and law enforcement officials, schools, nonprofit organizations, the faith community, parents, youth and other allies in efforts to prevent substance use disorder in communities throughout New Jersey. **WHEREAS**, The Township Council of the Township of Vernon, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey recognizes that substance use disorder is a serious problem in our society amongst persons of all ages; and therefore has an established Municipal Alliance Committee; and, **WHEREAS**, the Township Council further recognizes that it is incumbent upon not only public officials but upon the entire community to take action to prevent substance use disorder in our community; and, **WHEREAS**, the Township Council has applied for funding to the Governor’s Council on Substance Use Disorder through the County of Sussex; **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township of Vernon, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey hereby recognizes the following:

1. The Township Council does hereby authorize submission of a strategic plan for the Vernon Municipal Alliance grant for fiscal year 2027 in the amount of:

GCSUD Grant	\$6491.00
Cash Match	\$1662.75
In-Kind	\$4868.25
2. The Township Council acknowledges the terms and conditions for administering the Municipal Alliance grant, including the administrative compliance and audit requirements.

RESOLUTION #26-15

**AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND MUNICIPAL CLERK
TO SIGN AN AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX
FOR NUTRITION SITE PREMISES FOR SENIOR CITIZENS**

WHEREAS, Vernon Township has available space in the Senior Citizen Center; and

WHEREAS, there is a continuing need for space to offer meals to accommodate approximately 75 senior citizens per day; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Vernon has offered, for appropriate compensation, to allow the County of Sussex to utilize a portion of the Senior Citizen facility for the Vernon Nutrition Site Operation project as per attached agreement for the year 2026; and

WHEREAS, the agreement is attached hereto and made a part hereof; and

WHEREAS, the compensatory amount for the use of this facility is \$27,700.00 for the agreement year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Council of the Township of Vernon, New Jersey as follows:

1. That the Township Council of the Township of Vernon hereby authorizes and directs the Mayor and Township Clerk to execute the agreement between Vernon Township and the County of Sussex for use of the Vernon Township Senior Citizen Center for the Vernon Nutrition Site Project.
2. A certified copy of this Resolution shall be submitted to the Clerk of Sussex County and Jacquelyne Suarez, the Acting Director of the NJ Division of Local Government Services.

RESOLUTION #26-16

APPOINTING ADA COORDINATOR

WHEREAS, every municipality is required to designate an ADA Coordinator; and

WHEREAS, the ADA Coordinator's role is to ensure the Township's compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Township of Vernon that the Township Business Administrator Tina Kraus is hereby appointed as the ADA Coordinator for Vernon Township.

RESOLUTION #26-17

APPOINTMENT OF PUBLIC AGENCY COMPLIANCE OFFICER

WHEREAS pursuant to the provisions of N.J.A.C. 17:27-1 the Township of Vernon is required to designate a Public Agency Compliance Officer on an annual basis; and

WHEREAS said Public Agency Compliance Officer shall act as the official liaison for all equal opportunity employment matters in the administration of public contracts; and

WHEREAS the Township designates the Township Business Administrator Tina Kraus as the Public Agency Compliance Officer for calendar year 2026;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Township of Vernon that it hereby designates the Township Business Administrator Tina Kraus as the Township's Public Agency Compliance Officer for calendar year 2026; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Municipal Clerk shall forward a certified copy of this Resolution to the New Jersey Department of the Treasury Affirmative Action Office as required.

RESOLUTION #26-18

**ESTABLISHING INTEREST RATES
FOR DELINQUENT PROPERTY TAXES AND ASSESSMENTS**

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 54:4-67 permits the governing body of each municipality to fix the rate of interest to be charged for nonpayment of taxes or assessments subject to any abatement or discount for the late payment of taxes as provided by law; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 54:4-67 has been amended to provide an additional penalty of up to six percent (6%) on delinquent taxes and all municipal charges in excess of \$10,000.00 that are not paid prior to the end of the fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, this resolution is necessary for efficient and uninterrupted operations of the business of the Tax Collector.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Vernon that:

1. The Tax Collector of Vernon Township is authorized to cancel all payments of taxes of \$10.00 or less.
2. That no interest shall be charged if payment of any installment is made within ten (10) days after date upon which the same became payable.
3. That the rate of interest to be charged for nonpayment of taxes on or before they would become delinquent shall be 8% per annum on the first \$1,500.00 of the delinquency and 18% per annum, on any amount in excess of \$1,500.00, and;
4. Interest at the rate of 8% per annum on the unpaid balance of assessment is charged with each installment on due date. Any installment not paid on or before due date is subject to 8% interest, 18% interest over \$1,500.00.
5. A Year End Penalty of 6% is hereby assessed on delinquent tax accounts in excess of the sum of \$10,000.00 if a taxpayer shall fail to make payment in full on the delinquent amount prior to the end of the calendar year in which such taxes shall have accrued and been assessed.
6. That the Chief Financial Officer of the Township of Vernon is hereby authorized to make investments for the Township of Vernon.

RESOLUTION #26-19

CONTINUATION OF THE BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, the Council of Vernon Township established a Beautification Committee via resolution 16-66 on February 8, 2016; and

WHEREAS, the Council of Vernon Township wishes to continue the Beautification Committee consisting of seven to nine members to be appointed by the Mayor.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Township of Vernon, County of Sussex, and State Of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The Beautification Committee established via Resolution No. 16-66 on February 8, 2016 is hereby continued.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the Township Clerk shall send a certified copy of this resolution to the following:

- a. Chairperson of the Beautification Committee

RESOLUTION #26-20

CONTINUATION OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, the Council of Vernon Township established an Economic Development Advisory Committee via resolution 08-191 on October 9, 2008; and

WHEREAS, the Council of Vernon Township expanded the membership of the Economic Development Advisory Committee via resolution 09-88 to include two additional members on May 28, 2009; and

WHEREAS, the Council of Vernon Township wishes to continue the Economic Development Committee consisting of seven to eleven members to be appointed by the Mayor.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Township of Vernon, County of Sussex, and State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The Economic Development Advisory Committee established via Resolution No. 08-191 on October 9, 2008 and expanded via Resolution No. 09-88 on May 28, 2009 is hereby continued.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT; the Township Clerk shall send a certified copy of this resolution to the following:

- a. Chairperson of the Economic Development Advisory Committee

RESOLUTION #26-21

APPROVING A SOLICITOR PERMIT – POWER HOME REMODELING

WHEREAS, Cole Secaur has made an application for a Solicitor Permit for the purpose of Fiber Optic Internet Service; and

WHEREAS, upon receipt of the application for a Solicitor Permit, by Cole Secaur of Archtop Fiber the Vernon Township Police Department investigated the applicant's moral character and found it to be satisfactory and in good order for the protection of the public good; and the necessary application has been filed and all documentation is in order;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Vernon that approval be granted for a Solicitor Permit for Cole Secaur.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Clerk is hereby authorized to issue a Solicitor's Permit to the aforesaid applicant in accordance with Chapter 428 of the Code of the Township of Vernon.

RESOLUTION #26-22

APPROVING A SOLICITOR PERMIT – Archtop Fiber

WHEREAS, Maxwell Herebic has made an application for a Solicitor Permit for the purpose of Fiber Optic Internet Service; and

WHEREAS, upon receipt of the application for a Solicitor Permit, by Maxwell Herebic of Archtop Fiber the Vernon Township Police Department investigated the applicant's moral character and found it to be satisfactory and in good order for the protection of the public good; and the necessary application has been filed and all documentation is in order;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Vernon that approval be granted for a Solicitor Permit for Maxwell Herebic.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Clerk is hereby authorized to issue a Solicitor's Permit to the aforesaid applicant in accordance with Chapter 428 of the Code of the Township of Vernon.

RESOLUTION #26-23

APPROVING A SOLICITOR PERMIT – Archtop Fiber

WHEREAS, Ross Secaur has made an application for a Solicitor Permit for the purpose of Fiber Optic Internet Service; and

WHEREAS, upon receipt of the application for a Solicitor Permit, by Ross Secaur of Archtop Fiber the Vernon Township Police Department investigated the applicant's moral character and found it to be satisfactory and in good order for the protection of the public good; and the necessary application has been filed and all documentation is in order;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Vernon that approval be granted for a Solicitor Permit for Ross Secaur.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Clerk is hereby authorized to issue a Solicitor's Permit to the aforesaid applicant in accordance with Chapter 428 of the Code of the Township of Vernon.

RESOLUTION #26-25

Authorize the Award of a Required Disclosure Contract with "Spatial Data Logic" for Permitting / Licensing Software

WHEREAS, the Township has a need for software use in the Planning & Zoning, Building, Administration, Fire Prevention and Assessor's Offices for permitting, licensing, electronic maintenance of all inspection reports and transmission of monthly activity reports directly to the Department of Community Affairs; and

WHEREAS, for customer service efficiency and availability, Vernon Township has a need to utilize the Enterprise Licensing System offered by Spatial Data Logic, Somerset, NJ as a required disclosure contract pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4; for the calendar year of 2026 at a not to exceed cost of \$27,820.80 for 14 user licenses.

WHEREAS, the Sean Canning, Q.P.A., has determined and certified in writing that the value of the acquisition will exceed \$17,500; and,

WHEREAS, the anticipated term of this contract is for the year of 2026; and

WHEREAS, Spatial Data Logic in the aggregate is expected to provide more than the pay to play threshold of \$17,500.00; and

WHEREAS, Spatial Data Logic, has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification and a Personal Contribution Disclosure form which certifies that Spatial Data Logic has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the *Township of Vernon* in the previous one year, and that the contract will prohibit Spatial Data Logic from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract, and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer hereby certifies that funds NOT TO EXCEED \$27,820.80 are available as follows;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Township of Vernon authorizes the Mayor to enter into a contract with Spatial Data Logic, not to exceed \$27,820.80 for the 2026 budget year for Geologic Software for permitting and licensing purposes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Business Disclosure Entity Certification and Personal Contribution Disclosure form, Determination of Value be placed on file with this resolution.

RESOLUTION #26-26

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT A CASH MANAGEMENT PLAN-2026

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Vernon, County of Sussex, that for the year 2026, the following shall serve as the cash management plan of the Township of Vernon.

1. Cash Management and Investment Objectives

The Township of Vernon has the following objectives.

- A. Preservation of capital.
- B. Adequate safekeeping of assets.
- C. Maintenance of liquidity to meet operating needs.
- D. Investment of assets in accordance with State and Federal Laws and regulations.
- E. Maximize Yield.

2. Designation of Official Depositories

The following Government Unit Protection Act approved banks are authorized depositories for deposit of funds:

Provident Bank
PNC Bank
JP Morgan Chase Bank

TD Bank
Fulton Bank

3. Cash Management

- 15 A. All funds shall be deposited within 48 hours of receipt in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:5-15
- B. The Chief Financial Officer shall minimize the possibility of idle cash accumulating in accounts by assuring that any excess amounts not needed to cover expenses or in excess of negotiated compensating balances are kept in interest bearing accounts or promptly swept into the investment portfolio.
- C. Investment decisions shall be guided by the cash flow projections prepared by the Chief Financial Officer.

4. Permissible Investments

- A. Certificates of Deposits.
B. Savings and Loan Associations and Saving Bank Accounts.
C. New Jersey Cash Management Plan
D. Government Money Market Mutual Funds
E. Local Government Investment Pools, such as MBIA Municipal Investors Service Corporation CLASS
F. Short-Term Notes Issued to Local Governments and School Districts
G. Any other obligations with maturities not exceeding 397 days, as permitted by the Division of Investments.

5. Authority for Investment Management

The Chief Financial Officer is authorized and directed to make investments on behalf of the Township. All investment decisions shall be consistent with this plan and all appropriate regulatory constraints.

6. Reporting

The Chief Financial Officer shall report to the Township Council investments in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A: 5-15.2.

7. Audit

The Cash Management Plan shall be subject to annual audit conducted pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A: 5-14.

8. Disposition of Abandoned Property

The Chief Financial Officer shall escheat to the State of New Jersey checks which remain outstanding for more than twelve months after the date of issuance.

RESOLUTION #26-27

AUTHORIZING THE CONTINUATION OF AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

WHEREAS, the consultants of Phoenix Consulting Group LLC was appointed as Special Counsel Chief Financial Officer via Resolution #25-261 and

WHEREAS, the amount of fees for their services was estimated at \$12,000.00; and

WHEREAS, the amount of fees for their services requires an increase due to the extension of time where services are needed to continue serving as Chief Financial Officer; and

WHEREAS, the balance remaining on the not-to-exceed limitation will be insufficient to fund the remaining work until the next Chief Financial Officer begins employment; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified funds are available in the amount of \$8,000.00 for this purpose in account/line-item number 5-01-20-130-20 and 6-01-20-130-20 Finance Other Expenses.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Vernon that an additional not-to-exceed limitation in the amount of \$8,000.00 is hereby approved for Phoenix Consulting Group LLC (a total annual amount not to exceed \$20,000) for Chief Financial Officer services.

RESOLUTION #26-28

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING TEMPORARY BUDGET FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF VERNON
Temporary Budget Appropriations for Year 2026**

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Statutes 40A:4-19 provides that the temporary appropriations should be made for the purposes and amounts required in the manner and time therein provided; and

WHEREAS, the date of this resolution is within the first thirty days of January 2026; and

WHEREAS, 35% of the total appropriations in the 2025 budget exclusive of any appropriations made for Debt Service, Public Assistance, or Capital Improvement Fund in the said 2025 budget is the sum of \$9,477,047.66; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Governing Body of the Township of Vernon, that the temporary appropriations be made as follows:

Description	Temporary Appropriations
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION - S&W	\$ 64,750.00
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION - O/E	\$ 55,107.50
MAYOR & COUNCIL - S&W	\$ 15,750.00
MAYOR & COUNCIL - O/E	\$ 2,152.50
LEGAL SERVICES - O/E	\$ 98,000.00
ENGINEERING SERVICES - O/E	\$ 10,500.00
TECHNOLOGY - O/E	\$ 13,300.00
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT O/E	\$ 875.00
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION S&W	\$ 175.00
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION O/E	\$ 175.00
HISTORIC PRESERVATION S&W	\$ 700.00
HISTORIC PRESERVATION O/E	\$ 175.00
BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE O/E	\$ 3,500.00
CLERK - S&W	\$ 70,700.00
CLERK - O/E	\$ 15,470.00
FINANCE - S&W	\$ 92,500.00
FINANCE - O/E	\$ 11,625.00
AUDIT SERVICES	\$ 17,150.00
COLLECTION OF TAXES - S&W	\$ 51,250.00
COLLECTION OF TAXES - O/E	\$ 8,785.00
ASSESSMENT OF TAXES - S&W	\$ 82,250.00
ASSESSMENT OF TAXES - O/E	\$ 26,267.50
LAND USE BOARD - S & W	\$ 66,500.00
LAND USE BOARD - O/E	\$ 18,025.00
BUILDING DEPARTMENT - S&W	\$ 182,000.00
BUILDING DEPARTMENT - O/E	\$ 7,962.50
GROUP INSURANCE - O/E	\$ 1,200,000.00
GROUP INSURANCE - BENEFIT WAIVER	\$ 15,000.00
OTHER INSURANCE - O/E	\$ 450,000.00
WORKERS COMP. INSURANCE - O/E	\$ 250,000.00
POLICE DEPARTMENT - S & W	\$ 1,200,000.00
POLICE DEPARTMENT - O/E	\$ 54,907.00
RADIO COMMUNICATIONS - S&W	\$ 125,266.25
RADIO COMMUNICATIONS - O/E	\$ 2,250.00
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT - S&W	\$ 4,000.00
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT - O/E	\$ 1,000.00

ANIMAL CONTROL - S&W	\$	39,500.00
ANIMAL CONTROL - O/E	\$	7,000.00
VOLUNTEER EMERGENCY SERVICES	\$	115,000.00
FIRE PREVENTION - S&W	\$	75,600.00
FIRE PREVENTION - O/E	\$	10,000.00
ROAD REPAIRS - S&W	\$	398,750.00
ROAD REPAIRS & MAINT. - O/E	\$	95,750.00
STORM/SNOW OPERATIONS S&W	\$	90,000.00
STORM/SNOW OPERATIONS - O/E	\$	250,000.00
RECYCLING S&W	\$	15,000.00
RECYCLING - O/E	\$	4,500.00
BUILDINGS & GROUNDS - S&W	\$	19,950.00
BUILDINGS & GROUNDS - O/E	\$	51,975.00
FLEET MANAGEMENT - S&W	\$	81,250.00
FLEET MANAGEMENT - O/E	\$	118,125.00
MAINTENANCE OF PARKS - S&W	\$	68,750.00
MAINTENANCE OF PARKS - O/E	\$	15,750.00
SEN CITIZENS - S&W	\$	31,500.00
SEN. CITIZENS - ACTIVITIES -O/E	\$	24,237.50
RECREATION - S&W	\$	32,200.00
RECREATION - O/E	\$	28,096.25
MUNICIPAL COURT - S&W	\$	52,125.00
MUNICIPAL COURT - O/E	\$	2,660.00
TWP. PROSECUTOR	\$	11,900.00
SHARED SERVICE - RADIO COMMUNICATIONS	\$	3,750.00
SHARED SERVICE - SCHOOL GASOLINE	\$	3,750.00
SHARED SERVICE - ANIMAL CONTROL	\$	20,000.00
SHARED SERVICE - FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION	\$	12,035.00
SHARED SERVICES - SENIOR CITIZENS	\$	6,925.00
UTILITIES O/E	\$	140,750.00
SEWER UTILITY-SCMUA	\$	725,000.00
SOCIAL SECURITY - O/E	\$	187,500.00
PERS	\$	689,899.00
PFRS	\$	1,443,566.00
DEFINED CONTRIB RETIREMENT PROGRAM	\$	2,000.00
MUNICIPAL SERVICES ACT	\$	300,000.00
TOTAL IN CAP APPROPRIATIONS	\$	9,392,862.00
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND	\$	250,000.00
CAPITAL VEHICLES	\$	152,000.00
PAYM OF BOND PRIN - O/E	\$	1,315,000.00
INTEREST ON BONDS - MISCELLANEOUS	\$	37,100.00
TOTAL OUTSIDE CAP APPROPRIATIONS	\$	1,754,100.00
TOTAL TEMPORARY BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS	\$	11,146,962.00

RESOLUTION #26-29

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING VERNON TOWNSHIP TO EXECUTE A SHARED SERVICE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF VERNON AND THE VERNON TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY FOR THE PROVISION OF FINANCIAL CLERICAL SUPPORT SERVICES

WHEREAS, the Vernon Township Municipal Utilities Authority (“VTMUA”) is a public body politic and corporate constituting a political subdivision of the State established as an instrumentality exercising public and essential governmental functions to provide for the public health and welfare, established pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:14B-1, *et seq.*; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Vernon (“Vernon”) is a municipal corporation of the State of New Jersey, with offices located at 21 Church Street, Vernon, New Jersey 07462; and

WHEREAS, the VTMUA and Vernon currently share certain services pursuant to the Uniform Shared Services and Consolidation Act, N.J.S.A. 40A:65-1, *et seq.* (the “Act”); and

WHEREAS, the Township and the VTMUA have a need for certain financial clerical support services to be performed for each entity, which are outlined in the Shared Service Agreement for Financial Support Services; and

WHEREAS, the Township has agreed to share the cost of employees for financial clerical support services with the VTMUA; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Vernon is willing to provide by contract the financial clerical support services requested by the VTMUA for a five-year period at the following rates per year:

For the period of January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026 shall be FORTY-EIGHT THOUSAND, ONE HUNDRED FORTY DOLLARS (\$48,140.00).

For the period of January 1, 2027 through December 31, 2027, the cost for services shall be FIFTY THOUSAND, SIX HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$50,600.00).

For the period of January 1, 2028 through December 31, 2028, the cost for services shall be FIFTY-TWO THOUSAND, FIFTY DOLLARDS (\$52,050.00).

For the period of January 1, 2029 through December 31, 2029, the cost for services shall be FIFTY-FIVE THOUSAND, FIVE HUNDRED FIFTY-FIVE DOLLARS (\$55,555.00).

For the period of January 1, 2030 through December 31, 2030, the cost for services shall be FIFTY-EIGHT THOUSAND, TWO HUNDRED NINETY-SIX DOLLARDS (\$58,296.00).

WHEREAS, upon adoption of this Resolution, the Township will reduce the rights and obligations of the other to writing in the form of a shared service agreement (the “Agreement”); and

WHEREAS, the Agreement is authorized under N.J.S.A. 40A:65-1, *et seq.*

NOW THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Vernon, that the Shared Service Agreement for the provision of financial clerical support services as outlined above between the Township of Vernon and the Vernon Township Municipal Utilities Authority is hereby approved.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Council of the Township of Vernon hereby authorize and direct the Mayor or Business Administrator to execute the Agreements and that a copy of said Agreements be kept on file in the office of the Clerk.

RESOLUTION #26-30

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP OF VERNON TO EXECUTE A SHARED SERVICE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF VERNON AND THE VERNON TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY FOR THE PROVISION OF DPW EMERGENCY SERVICES

WHEREAS, the Vernon Township Municipal Utilities Authority (“VTMUA”) is a public body politic and corporate constituting a political subdivision of the State established as an instrumentality exercising public and essential governmental functions to provide for the public health and welfare, established pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:14B-1, *et seq.*; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Vernon (“Vernon”) is a municipal corporation of the State of New Jersey, with offices located at 21 Church Street, Vernon, New Jersey 07462; and

WHEREAS, the VTMUA and Vernon currently share certain services pursuant to the Uniform Shared Services and Consolidation Act, N.J.S.A. 40A:65-1, *et seq.* (the “Act”); and

WHEREAS, the parties have reduced the rights and obligations of the other to writing in the form of a shared service agreement (the “Agreement”), which Agreement is attached hereto and made a part hereof; and

WHEREAS, said Agreement with the Township of Vernon are for DPW emergency services; and

WHEREAS, the Agreement is authorized under N.J.S.A. 40A:65-1, *et seq.*

NOW THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Vernon, that the Shared Service Agreements for the provision of DPW emergency services as outlined in the Agreement between the Township of Vernon and the Vernon Township Municipal Utilities Authority is hereby approved.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Council of the Township of Vernon hereby authorize and direct the Mayor or Business Administrator to execute the Agreements and that a copy of said Agreements be kept on file in the office of the Clerk.

RESOLUTION #26-31

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A SHARED SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH THE TOWNSHIP OF VERNON FOR THE PROVISION OF SNOWPLOWING SERVICES ON AN AS NEEDED BASIS

WHEREAS, the Vernon Township Municipal Utilities Authority (“VTMUA”) is located within and operates with the municipal boundaries of the Township of Vernon (“Township”); and

WHEREAS, the VTMUA employs certain personnel and owns certain equipment, both of which are utilized in the day-to-day operations of the VTMUA including, among other things, snow removal and pretreatment/treatment for ice; and

WHEREAS, the Township’s Department of Public Works, among other things, performs snow removal and ice pretreatment/treatment on roads and parking lots; and

WHEREAS, the Township has requested that the VTMUA assist the Township in the clearing of snow and/or pretreatment/treatment for ice on roads and parking lots located within the Township; and

WHEREAS, VTMUA is able and willing to assist the Township as detailed above provided that it be made whole for the costs associated with same; and

WHEREAS, the Township has agreed to same and will prepare and present a shared service agreement detailing the rights and obligations of the parties, which, at a minimum, will contain the obligation of the Township to pay the VTMUA the hourly rate for its employee utilized to perform snow removal and ice treatment/pretreatment services, along with ancillary costs such as fuel, insurance, etc. as needed and subject to the VTMUA’s negotiation; and

WHEREAS, VTMUA desires to execute a shared services agreement as detailed above.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Vernon Township Council that:

1. A shared services arrangement as detailed above is hereby approved.
2. The Chair of the VTMUA is hereby authorized and directed to execute a shared services agreement memorializing the terms and conditions above, subject to review by the VTMUA attorney.
3. A copy of the Agreement and this Resolution shall be sent to the State of New Jersey, Division of Local Government Services in the Department of Community Affairs.
4. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption according to law.

RESOLUTION #26-32

**AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES ON TOWNSHIP CHECKS
PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:5-16**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Township of Vernon that the following Township Officials are hereby authorized to sign checks, withdrawal slips or other bank related items with two out of the four below listed principal signatures being required:

Mayor
Business Administrator
Tax Collector

Resolution #26-36

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VERNON
APPOINTING AN MUNICIPAL PROSECUTOR**

WHEREAS, the Township of Vernon (“Township”) has a need for an Municipal Prosecutor; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2B:12-27, a municipality may employ an attorney-at-law as a Municipal Prosecutor under the supervision of the County Prosecutor and that attorney may represent the municipality in any matter within the jurisdiction of the central municipal court and any other municipal court; and

WHEREAS, Chirag D. Mehta, Esq. has the necessary experience and qualifications to perform the duties of Municipal Prosecutor; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5 specifically exempts professional services from provision of public bidding as provided in the Local Public Contracts Law; and

WHEREAS, the Township deems it in the best interests of the Township to appoint Chirag D. Mehta, Esq. as the Municipal Prosecutor and to enter a non-fair and open contract to provide said services pursuant to the provisions of the Local Public Contract Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, Chirag D. Mehta, Esq. will complete and submit a Business Entity Disclosure Certification for Non-Fair and Open Contract which certifies that he has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the Township of Vernon in the previous one year and that the contract will prohibit Chirag D. Mehta, Esq. from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract to a political or candidate committee in the Township of Vernon; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that there are sufficient funds available.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Vernon as follows:

1. Chirag D. Mehta, Esq. is hereby appointed as Municipal Prosecutor for one (1) year from January 15, 2026 to January 14, 2027 and the Mayor is authorized to execute a non-fair and open contract to provide these services.
2. The required Business Entity Disclosure Certification and Political Contribution Disclosure Form shall be provided before execution of the contract and be placed on file with the resolution
3. A copy of this resolution shall be kept on file in the Township Clerk’s Office.

Resolution #26-37

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VERNON
APPOINTING AN ALTERNATE MUNICIPAL PROSECUTOR**

WHEREAS, the Township of Vernon (“Township”) has a need for an Alternate Municipal Prosecutor; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2B:12-27, a municipality may employ an attorney-at-law as a Municipal Prosecutor under the supervision of the County Prosecutor and that attorney may represent the municipality in any matter within the jurisdiction of the central municipal court and any other municipal court; and

WHEREAS, Maxwell J. Smith, Esq. has the necessary experience and qualifications to perform the duties of Alternate Municipal Prosecutor; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5 specifically exempts professional services from provision of public bidding as provided in the Local Public Contracts Law; and

WHEREAS, the Township deems it in the best interests of the Township to appoint Maxwell J. Smith, Esq. as the Alternate Municipal Prosecutor and to enter a non-fair and open contract to provide said services pursuant to the provisions of the Local Public Contract Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, Maxwell J. Smith, Esq. will complete and submit a Business Entity Disclosure Certification for Non-Fair and Open Contract which certifies that he has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the Township of Vernon in the previous one year and that the contract will prohibit Maxwell J. Smith, Esq. from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract to a political or candidate committee in the Township of Vernon; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that there are sufficient funds available.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Vernon as follows:

1. Maxwell J. Smith, Esq. is hereby appointed as Alternate Municipal Prosecutor for one (1) year from January 15, 2026 to January 14, 2027 and the Mayor is authorized to execute a non-fair and open contract to provide these services.
2. The required Business Entity Disclosure Certification and Political Contribution Disclosure Form shall be provided before execution of the contract and be placed on file with the resolution
3. A copy of this resolution shall be kept on file in the Township Clerk's Office.

Resolution #26-38

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VERNON
APPOINTING AN MUNICIPAL PUBLIC DEFENDER**

WHEREAS, the Township of Vernon ("Township") has a need for a Municipal Public Defender; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2B:12-27, a municipality may employ an attorney-at-law as a Municipal Public Defender under the supervision of the County Prosecutor and that attorney may represent the municipality in any matter within the jurisdiction of the central municipal court and any other municipal court; and

WHEREAS, John C. Grey, Esq. has the necessary experience and qualifications to perform the duties of Municipal Public Defender and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5 specifically exempts professional services from provision of public bidding as provided in the Local Public Contracts Law; and

WHEREAS, the Township deems it in the best interests of the Township to appoint John C. Grey, Esq. as the Municipal Public Defender and to enter a non-fair and open contract to provide said services pursuant to the provisions of the Local Public Contract Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, John C. Grey, Esq. will complete and submit a Business Entity Disclosure Certification for Non-Fair and Open Contract which certifies that he has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the Township of Vernon in the previous one year and that the contract will prohibit John C. Grey, Esq. from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract to a political or candidate committee in the Township of Vernon; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that there are sufficient funds available.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Vernon as follows:

1. John C. Grey, Esq. is hereby appointed as Municipal Public Defender for one (1) year from January 15, 2026 to January 14, 2027 and the Mayor is authorized to execute a non-fair and open contract to provide these services.
2. The required Business Entity Disclosure Certification and Political Contribution Disclosure Form shall be provided before execution of the contract and be placed on file with the resolution
3. A copy of this resolution shall be kept on file in the Township Clerk's Office.

RESOLUTION #26-39

**AUTHORIZING THE VERNON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL TO APPROVE A PERSON-TO-
PERSON TRANSFER OF LIQUOR LICENSE #1922-33-001-004**

WHEREAS, an application has been filed for a person-to-person transfer of a Plenary Retail Consumption License #1922-33-001-004, for the purpose of changing the name of licensee wherein the sale, service and storage of alcoholic beverages are authorized; and

WHEREAS, the submitted application form is complete in all respects, the transfer fees have been paid, and the license has been properly renewed for the current license term.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Council of the Township of Vernon does hereby approve, effective as of January 15, 2026 a person-to person transfer of the Plenary Retail Consumption License #1922-33-001-004, located at 1601 County Route 565 Vernon, NJ 07461, New Jersey to transfer from Drew's Tavern Inc., to The Leonard Inn LLC as delineated in the application form.

RESOLUTION #26-40

APPOINTMENT TO THE LAND USE BOARD

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VERNON, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, and STATE OF NEW JERSEY, as follows:

1. That the following individual is hereby appointed as a member of the Vernon Township Land Use Board for a term specified as follows:

William Higgins Class III Term Expiring 1/14/2027

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the Township Clerk shall send a certified copy of this resolution to the following:

- a. Land Use Board Secretary

RESOLUTION #26-42

AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

WHEREAS, there is a need for Professional Services to the Township of Vernon for Attorneys, Auditor, Bond Counsel, Prosecutor, Public Defender, Engineer, Planner, Financial Advisor and Appraisal services and;

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5 specifically exempts professional services from provisions of public bidding as provided in the Local Public Contracts Law; and

WHEREAS, said specified professional services are to be rendered or performed by a person or persons authorized by law to practice a recognized profession, and whose practice is regulated by law within the meaning of N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq., as amended; and

WHEREAS, the performance of said professional services requires knowledge of an advanced field of learning acquired by a prolonged formal course of specialized training and study as distinguished from general academic instruction or apprenticeship and training; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Vernon is desirous to enter into an agreement with these professionals as a fair and open contract pursuant to the provisions of the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq., as amended; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Finance Officer has certified in writing that the value of the contracts is available for these purposes subject to the adoption of the 2026 Municipal Budget; and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq., as amended, requires that this Resolution be publicly advertised.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Township of Vernon that they hereby authorize and approve the award of contracts of a Professional Service Contract pursuant to the provisions of the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:20-1 et seq. to provide Services in accordance with the attached Contracts for Professional Services pursuant to a non-fair and open contract to the following:

1. Township Attorney – Peter J. King, Esq. King Moench & Collins, LLP
2. Township Planner – Jessica Caldwell of J. Caldwell and Associates
3. Township Engineer – Cory Stoner of Harold E. Pellow & Associates
4. Qualified Purchasing Agent – Sean Canning, MPA, QPA of The Canning Group
5. Township Financial Advisor – Phoenix Advisors, LLC
6. Township Auditor – Nisivoccia & Company, LLP
7. Special Township Attorney – Redevelopment and In Rem Foreclosures – Matthew Jessup, Esq. of McManimon, Scotland, & Baumann, LLC
8. Township Bond Counsel - Robert Beinfield, Esq. of Hawkins Delafield & Wood, LLP
9. Special Township Attorney: Tax Appeals- Robert McBriar, Esq. of Schenk, Price, Smith & King, LLP
10. Special Township Attorney – Labor – Douglas Steinhardt, Florio Perucci, Steinhardt, Capelli, Tipton & Taylor, LLC
11. Alternate Municipal Prosecutor – Maxwell Smith, Esq.

12. Municipal Prosecutor –Chirag Menta, Esq.
13. Public Defender – John C. Grey, Esq.
14. Health Benefits Consultant – Frank Covelli, Professional Insurance Associates
15. Appraisal Services – Appraisal Systems, Inc.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the award of contract shall be contingent upon the completion and receipt of the following:

- (a) A fully-executed professional services contract detailing the scope of services, established fees for said professional services, mandatory Equal Opportunity Language and Affirmative Action Certificate; and
- (b) Receipt of all statutorily mandated “pay to play” political contribution forms pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 et seq.; and
- (c) New Jersey Business Registration Certificate; and
- (d) Upon the aforementioned professional being a member in good standing in his respective profession.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute, seal and deliver the attached Contracts for Professional Services on behalf of and in the name of the Township of Vernon and that the Municipal Clerk shall publish the award of contract as required by law with ten (10) days of passage of this Resolution.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution #26-12: Resolution of the Township of Vernon, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey, Granting Authority for Approval of Certain Purchases in Excess of the Bid Threshold Through New Jersey State Contracts and/or Purchasing Cooperatives for 2026

Council President Higgins asked for a motion to place resolution #26-12 on the floor for discussion.

MOVED: Sparta
SECOND: Rizzuto

Council Member Ooms made a motion to table resolution #26-12. Seconded by Council Member Rizzuto.

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Contino, Higgins, Ooms, Rizzuto, Sparta
NAYES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT:

Motion carries to table resolution #26-12.

Resolution #26-13: Granting Authority for Approval of Certain Purchases Through New Jersey State Contracts and/or Purchasing Cooperatives for 2026

Council President Higgins asked for a motion to place resolution #26-13 on the floor for discussion.

MOVED: Contino
SECOND: Ooms

Council Member Ooms made a motion to table resolution #26-13. Seconded by Council Member Contino.

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Contino, Higgins, Rizzuto
NAYES: Higgins, Sparta
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT:

Motion carries to table resolution #26-13.

Resolution #26-24: Designating Meeting Dates of the Township Council for the 2026 Calendar Year

Council President Higgins asked for a motion to place resolution #26-24 on the floor for discussion.

MOVED: Contino
SECOND: Ooms

Council Member Sparta made a motion at approve resolution #26-24 as amended. Seconded by Council Member Ooms.

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Contino, Higgins, Ooms, Rizzuto, Sparta

NAYES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion carries to approve resolution #26-24 as amended.

RESOLUTION #26-24

DESIGNATING MEETING DATES OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL FOR THE 2026 CALENDAR YEAR

BE IT RESOLVED, in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-1 et. seq., the Regular Meetings of the Township Council of the Township of Vernon shall convene on the Second and Fourth Mondays of each Month (except as noted with * in schedule below) at 6:00 pm (if there is an Executive Session), or at 7:00 pm (if there is no Executive Session). The meetings will be in person at the Vernon Municipal Center, 21 Church Street, Vernon, New Jersey for the following:

MEETING DATES

January 15 (Reorganization) and 26	July 13 and 27
February 9 and 23	August 10 and 24
March 9 and 23	September 14 and 28
April 13 and 20	October 15* and 26
May 11 and 28*	November 9 and 23
June 8 and 22	December 21
January 19, 2027* (Reorganization 6:00 pm)	

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if there is to be an Executive Session, the Township Council shall immediately convene into Executive Session after opening their Regular Meeting at 6:00 pm in order to discuss those matters in executive session from which the public shall be excluded and at 7:00 pm, or as soon thereafter, the public portion of the meeting will recommence. Formal action may be taken at any Council Meeting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all Township Council meetings shall be open to the public and public participation will be entertained at all Township Council meetings. There will be a limited period of public comment at the beginning of every meeting where speakers will be limited to three (3) minutes. During the first period for public comment each speaker may speak only on items on the current agenda. The total time for public speaking at the beginning of the meeting is limited to one half hour (30 minutes) to provide the Governing Body sufficient time to complete its work.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that there will be a second period of public comment at the end of each Council meeting. Speakers will be limited to five (5) minutes where the public may speak on any topic.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all Notices required by the Open Public Meetings Act shall be published in *The New Jersey Herald/Sunday Herald* and, if needed, in alternate newspapers, *The Advertiser News*, and *The Star Ledger* and shall be posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, P.L. 2025, c. 72 requires that starting March 1, 2026, municipalities publish their public notices on the municipal website. The Township of Vernon, County of Sussex, public notices will be available at <https://www.vernontwp.com/index.php/government/legal-notices> starting March 1, 2026, in compliance with P.L. 2025, c. 72.

Resolution #26-34: Resolution to Appoint a Council Member Liaison for Development Matters in Vernon Township

Council President Higgins asked for a motion to place resolution #26-34 on the floor for discussion.

MOVED: Contino

SECOND: Ooms

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Contino, Higgins, Ooms, Rizzuto, Sparta

NAYES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion carries to approve resolution #26-34.

RESOLUTION #26-34

**RESOLUTION TO APPOINT A COUNCIL MEMBER LIAISON FOR DEVELOPMENT
MATTERS IN VERNON TOWNSHIP**

WHEREAS, the Township Council may consider development projects and developers agreements as necessary,

WHEREAS, the Township Council may be required to make decisions by votes regarding development projects, developer's agreements and associated matters,

WHEREAS, it is beneficial and necessary for the Township Council to have direct, thorough, and accurate information to make prudent decisions in the best interest of the Township,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Vernon, in the County of Sussex as follows:

Section 1. The Township Council hereby appoints Councilman Patrick Rizzuto, or a Council designee, as the Council's liaison for development matters and he shall attend all meetings with developers scheduled by the Mayor, the developers, the council, the municipal clerk and all participating attorneys.

Section 2. This appointment will be for a two-year term ending on January 15, 2028.

Section 3. Council liaison Patrick Rizzuto, or a Council designee, shall be included and copied on all correspondence, emails, text messages, and all written methods of communication by the mayor, the developers, the council, the municipal clerk and participating attorneys between the Township and the developers.

Section 4. The Council liaison, or a Council designee, will report all pertinent information, progress, and plans regarding the content of such meetings to the council in a timely manner.

Resolution #26-41: Resolution Authorizing Appointment of a Chief Financial Officer for Vernon Township

Council President Higgins asked for a motion to place resolution #26-41 on the floor for discussion.

MOVED: Sparta

SECOND: Rizzuto

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Contino, Higgins, Ooms, Rizzuto, Sparta

NAYES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion carries to approve resolution #26-41

RESOLUTION #26-41

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPOINTMENT OF A
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER FOR VERNON TOWNSHIP**

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:9-140.10 requires that “in every municipality there shall be a chief financial officer appointed by the governing body of the municipality”; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council shall also appoint a Chief Financial Officer, who shall serve as director of the Department of Finance, in accordance with Article IX, Section 5-46 of the Township Code (Ordinance #11-21); and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:9-140.10 further provides that the term of office of the chief financial officer “shall be four years, which shall run from January 1 in the year in which the chief financial officer is appointed”; and

WHEREAS, the position of Chief Financial Officer requires the officer filling the position to have obtained certification from the Department of Community Affairs, Division of Local Government Services; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Reiche has received her certification from the Department of Community Affairs, Division of Local Government Services; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Vernon wishes to appoint Ms. Patricia Reiche as the Chief Financial Officer with term ending on December 31, 2029.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Vernon, County of Sussex and State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. Ms. Reiche’s term is to commence effective February 2, 2026, in accordance with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 40A: 9-140.10, and shall continue until December 31, 2029.
2. Ms. Reiche shall receive annual compensation as set forth in the Township municipal salary ordinance of \$170,000, and shall give bond for the faithful performance of her duties, the bond to be paid for by the Township.
3. Ms. Reiche shall perform and discharge all of the functions, powers, and duties prescribed for the Chief Financial Officer in the Township Code and other applicable laws.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

Ordinance #26-01: Calendar Year 2026 Model Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a Cap Bank (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)

Council President Higgins asked for a motion to introduce Ordinance #26-01.

MOVED: Sparta
SECOND: Ooms

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Contino, Higgins, Ooms, Rizzuto, Sparta
NAYES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT:

Motion carries carry to approve ordinance #26-01.

Ordinance #26-02: Ordinance of the Township of Vernon, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey, Releasing, Extinguishing and Vacating the Rights of the Public in a Portion of Block 436, Lot 22, Burgher Road.

Council President Higgins asked for a motion to introduce Ordinance #26-02.

MOVED: Contino
SECOND: Sparta

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Contino, Higgins, Ooms, Rizzuto, Sparta

NAYES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion carries to approve ordinance #26-02.

Ordinance #26-03: Ordinance Extending Lease Agreement Between the Vernon Township Board of Education and the Township of Vernon, and Sub-Lease Agreement Between the Township of Vernon and the Dog Owners Gathering Society of Vernon Township Inc., For Certain Unimproved Real Estate Identified on the Official Tax Maps of the Township of Vernon as Block 308 Lot 2 (Old Block 133, Lot 2.05)

Council President Higgins asked for a motion to introduce Ordinance #26-03.

MOVED: Sparta

SECOND: Contino

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Contino, Higgins, Ooms, Rizzuto, Sparta

NAYES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion carries to approve ordinance #26-03.

Ordinance #26-04: An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 250, Entitled “Fees and Escrows” of the Code of the Township of Vernon, Sussex County, New Jersey

Council President Higgins asked for a motion to introduce Ordinance #26-04.

MOVED: Sparta

SECOND: Rizzuto

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Contino, Higgins, Rizzuto, Sparta

NAYES: Ooms

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Motion carries to approve ordinance #26-04.

MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES

Beautification Committee (7-9 open spots) **All one-year terms expiring Jan 14, 2027**

Keren Gonen
Claude Guillen
Jessie Kozmoski
Marissa Rossi
Meg Wahnnon
Taylor Spiotto

Board of Recreation

Heather Labance - three-year term expiring Jan 14, 2029

Economic Development Advisory Committee – **All one-year terms expiring Jan 14, 2027**

Heidi Le Bris
Peter Knipe
Evan Kovach
Debra Chase
Paul Bastante

Environmental Commission

Natalie Buccieri - three-year term expiring Jan 14, 2029
Edward Connell - three-year term expiring Jan 14, 2029

Land Use Board

Mayor’s Designee to one-year Class I term expiring on Jan 14, 2027 - **John Auberger**
Class II 3 yr term expiring on Jan 14 2029 Environmental Commission Designee –

Natalie Buccieri

Class IV 4-yr term expiring on Jan 14, 2030 – **Willard McPeck**

Class IV 4-yr term expiring on Jan 14, 2030– **Paul Mele**

Alternate #1 2-yr term expiring on Jan 14, 2028 – **Jodi White-Bearstler**

Alternate #2 unexpired term ending on Jan 14, 2027 – **Mark Vizzini**

Alternate #3 unexpired term ending on Jan 14, 2027 – **Marissa Groenendaal-Poteete**

Alternate #4 2-yr term expiring on Jan 14, 2028 –**Richard Wengenroth**

Senior Citizen Committee all three -year terms expiring Jan 14, 2029

Kathy Zayatz
Sue Pusztay
Gloria Frato
Josephine Prisco
Christa Gerry
Veronika Grundler
Tina Kempka

PUBLIC COMMENT (Limited to 5 Minutes On Any Topic)

Council President Higgins asked for a motion to open the meeting to Public Comments.

MOVED: Sparta
SECOND: Ooms

All members were in favor.

Motion carries to open the floor to public comment.

Heidi LeBris- wished everyone luck in the future.

Steve Dunlop – expressed concern with an article in the Advertiser regarding Matthew Jessup, saying that he works for the developer, and this is not true. Matthew Jessup works for Vernon Township. Mr. Dunlop commented on the PILOT and the petition. He wants everyone to work together.

Elaine Badgley – expressed concern with the potential development on Route 515.

Jamie Rickey – expressed concern for the future of the town center development.

Seeing no one else from the public wishing to come forward, Council President Higgins asked for a motion to close the meeting to Public Comments.

MOVED: Sparta
SECOND: Rizzuto

A roll call vote was taken:

AYES: Contino, Higgins, Ooms, Rizzuto, Sparta
NAYES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT:

Motion carries to close the meeting to the public.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council Member Contino thanked everyone for coming out and thanked everyone for allowing him to be in this position. He takes this very seriously. He feels that the most important thing is to listen, and please reach out to him with any concerns. He is an open book and thanked everyone for participating in our democracy.

Council Member Rizzuto thanked the Commissioners Board for honoring us with their presence. and he feel that the Council is committed to do the best we can for the community.

Council Member Ooms thanked everyone with their presence and she feels that the Council is committed to do the best we can for the community.

Council Member Sparta asked the Mayor if something could be done with the speakers and cameras in the courtroom. Council Member Sparta congratulated Council Members Ooms and Contino. He thanked Jessica DeBenedetto and Natalie Buccieri for their service. Council Member Sparta thanked Vernon Emergency Services for a call that they had at his mother's house. He explained that he was not at the January 29th meeting due to a family vacation to spend time together. Council Member Sparta asked that if the PILOT goes on the ballot, please educate yourselves. As Council Members we need to take everything into consideration and make a decision for the entire community. We have to look at the projects that are in front of the town now and not in years to come.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT COMMENTS

Council President Higgins commented that there are a lot of key issues, the PILOT being one of them. Some others you will see resolved shortly are the gun permits, the cost of the gun permits and how much the town gives back to the people who buy the permits. Council President Higgins explained that the Mayor initiated a garbage program and hopefully there will be a program coming to fruition soon for the residents to use. Legends is also another big issue with ideas being thrown around.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:07 pm Council Member Rizzuto made a motion to adjourn the Reorganization meeting. Seconded by Council Member Contino.

All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcy Gianattasio, RMC, CMR
Municipal Clerk

William Higgins,
Council President

Minutes approved: February 9, 2026